

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 404

By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mary Clark and Arlene Cunningham for their honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mary Clark and Arlene Cunningham are two such estimable persons who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, currently owning and operating Mary and Arlene's Place in Gallatin, these two exceptional ladies have spent more than thirty-five years apiece in the food service industry in Sumner County; and

WHEREAS, having opened their restaurant in 1991, Ms. Clark and Ms. Cunningham have devoted their years of work to helping innumerable victims of illness and injuries with compassion, understanding, and financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, one instance of their giving back to the community and making a difference the lives of many was in helping the family of David Lo, a Gallatin police officer; when Mr. Lo was diagnosed with cancer, Ms. Clark and Ms. Cunningham hosted two fundraisers to assist with medical bills and family needs; and

WHEREAS, after Mr. Lo passed away, these two intrepid ladies ensured that his wife and four children were not forgotten at during the holiday season by raising money and collecting gifts to help them through their first Christmas without him; and

WHEREAS, these sisters' many acts of generosity are a tribute to the memory of their third sister, Ruby "Nadine" Gann, who lost her life to cancer a few years ago; the three sisters initiated the first cancer support group in Sumner County, holding meetings with volunteers from the American Cancer Society at Three Sisters Restaurant, which they owned at the time; and

WHEREAS, those who know them best describe Ms. Clark and Ms. Cunningham as "truly angels on earth"; and

WHEREAS, Mary Clark and Arlene Cunningham are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Mary Clark and Arlene Cunningham for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute their unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we applaud Mary Clark and Arlene Cunningham for the concern and care they have shown to those in need in their community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.